

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for managing failure messages for email messages, the method comprising:
receiving a failure message from an Internet service provider (ISP) when the ISP is unable to deliver an email message to an email address associated with the ISP;
determining, for the failure message, a failure type based on a determined rule for classifying the failure message; and
determining whether the email address should be marked as invalid ~~performing an action in response to receiving the failure message, wherein the action is determined at least in part~~ based upon the determined failure type and the ISP associated with the email address.

Claims 2 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising wherein ~~the action comprises~~ storing information for the email address based on the failure type determined.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determined rule is selected from a plurality of rules ~~include rules~~ for a plurality of ISPs, wherein the rules for the ISP associated with the email address are used to determine the failure type.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the determined rule is selected from a plurality of rules each include including ~~include~~ information for a failure message, wherein determining the rule that applies to the failure message comprises comparing content of the failure message to the information for the rules to determine a rule that includes information that matches the content of the failure message.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the failure message comprises a failure message that is determined before delivery of the email message.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the failure message comprises a failure message email message that is determined after delivery of the email message.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the failure message comprises a failure message sent by the ISP.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for categorizing failure messages from a plurality of Internet service providers (ISPs), the method comprising:

receiving a failure message corresponding to an email address associated with a corresponding ISP of the plurality of ISPs when the corresponding ISP is unable to deliver an email message to the email address;

determining a set of rules that is associated with the corresponding ISP for classifying the failure message;

determining a failure type of the failure message based on a determined rule of the set of rules for the corresponding ISP; and

determining whether the email address should be marked as invalid ~~performing an action in response to receiving the failure message, wherein the action is determined at least in part based upon the determined failure type and the corresponding ISP associated with the email address.~~

Claims 13 - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising storing information for the email address indicating the failure message of the determined failure type was received.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the rule includes information for a failure message, wherein determining the rule that applies to the failure message comprises

comparing content of the failure message to the information for the failure message for the rules to determine a rule that includes information that matches the content of the failure message.

18. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for categorizing failure messages, the method comprising:

receiving a failure message from an Internet Service Provider (ISP) when the ISP is unable to deliver an email message to an email address associated with the ISP;
determining, for the failure message, a failure type; and
determining whether the email address should be marked as invalid ~~performing an action in response to receiving the failure message, wherein the action is determined at least in part~~ based upon the determined failure type and the corresponding ISP associated with the email address.

Claims 19-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, ~~wherein the action comprises further comprising~~ storing information for the email address based on the failure type determined.

27. (Previously Presented) A system for classifying failure messages, the system comprising:

a failure message processor configured to process failure messages associated with a plurality of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the failure message processor comprising:
logic to receive a failure message corresponding to an email address associated with a corresponding ISP of the plurality of ISPs when the corresponding ISP is unable to deliver an email message to the email address;
logic to determine a set of rules that is associated with the corresponding ISP for classifying the failure message;
logic to determine a failure type of the failure message based on a determined rule of the determined set of rules for the corresponding ISP;

logic to determine an email address associated with the failure message;

and

logic to determine if the email address should be marked as invalid based on the failure type determined and the corresponding ISP associated with the email address,

wherein the logic to determine if the email address should be invalidated comprises:

logic to determine a set of invalidation rules that is associated at least in part with the corresponding ISP and the determined failure type; and

logic to determine if the email address should be marked as invalid based on the invalidation rule.

Claims 28 - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the logic to determine if the email address should be marked as invalid based on the invalidation rule comprises logic to mark the email address as invalid if a failure message for the failure type has been received a certain number of times.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the failure message processor further comprises logic to store information for the email address indicating the failure message of the determined failure type was received.